

Take, for example, in Atlanta, Georgia, my home State, just this past weekend at the NBA All-Star game, there were 13 shootings. These were all illegal shootings. None of those criminals signed up for a background check for their guns. None of those criminals considered that they needed a waiting period before they used their firearm. And none of those criminals cared about any of the laws on the books when they shot people.

Criminals don't care about gun laws. Criminals just don't care. They're going to commit their crime. They are going to murder someone, whether they have a legal gun, an illegal gun, a knife, a hammer, you name it. They are criminals. They break the law.

H.R. 8 requires a background check on gun owners. Everyone knows that for a background check, you have to submit all your information to get that background check done. It is actually nothing but a national gun registry list. And everyone knows that a registry list leads to gun confiscation later on. This is what gun owners know. This is what gun owners fear of a government that may become too tyrannical, which I would like to remind you is the whole reason why we have the Second Amendment in the first place. It is because our brave men and women who founded our country fought against a tyrannical government that was coming to take away their guns.

This is not what we want in America. We never want a war on our land, but we also don't want a government that becomes too controlling and overbearing and takes away the rights of gun owners.

□ 1030

You see, gun rights are American rights, and gun rights are women's rights. Yesterday was International Women's Day. It is a wonderful thing to be an American woman. We are the freest women in the world. For us to be able to have the right to own a firearm and protect ourselves when someone is trying to hurt us is a great right.

Madam Speaker, there is a woman named Carol Bowne, who was stabbed to death outside of her New Jersey home by her ex-boyfriend. Carol knew her best chance of defending herself from a violent ex-boyfriend was a gun, not a piece of paper, not a 911 call. She knew her ex-boyfriend was violent and wanted to kill her, so she went to buy a gun.

But you know what? It was a background check, the rules of the State, the oppressive gun rules of that State, that led to her being stabbed to death because it delayed her ability to buy a gun and defend herself from an ex-boyfriend that was out of his mind.

Carol Bowne had a restraining order. She was following the law against her boyfriend, so she had a restraining order. She had reported him to the police, but he still came to her house and killed her in the driveway. She was

waiting for her approval of her gun permit—literally, what we are talking about with H.R. 8, background checks, and H.R. 1446, a 20-day waiting period.

She was following the law, and she still got stabbed to death and murdered by her ex-boyfriend. You see, she had gone to the township police department 2 days before her death to check on the status of her languishing application.

Another indication of her fear of her out-of-his-mind ex-boyfriend, she had installed surveillance cameras around her home. Guess what? Those cameras recorded—

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

HONORING RAMON ANIBAL RAMOS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. ESPAILLAT) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and work of a great New Yorker, a great Dominican-American, Ramon Anibal Ramos, who was born in San Pedro de Macoris in Ingenio Angelina.

Over 50 years in radio and TV, that is what he gave our community. He conducted Fiesta de Tele Antillas on channel 47. He would listen to rock and roll as a young man, at an early age.

He began La Voz del Tropic in 1958. He worked at Radio Radio, Onda Musical, Radio Reloj. In 1973, he went to work for Radio Clarin, "Entre Carrera y Carrera," then Colorvision at a program called "La Alegria del Pais y Fiebre del Sabado," and also Super KQ FM98.

He was an advocate for the community, and he worked right in the middle of the pandemic with SOMOS, a group of community-based physicians in the community of northern Manhattan.

Madam Speaker, as the newspaper reported flocks of vultures flying over Manhattan in those tough months of February, March, April, during the pandemic, Ramon Anibal Ramos was out there documenting everything that was going on in the city of New York and reporting on what community doctors at SOMOS were doing on behalf of my constituents. He was an advocate for the community. He worked with those doctors.

I want to extend my condolences to his wife and family, and to say that Ramon Anibal Ramos and his show, "El Show de Ramon Anibal Ramos," was truly "lo mejor del cable."

Madam Speaker, I bring his name up because we are about to pass a \$1.9 trillion rescue package, and I am amazed. I am taken aback. I am surprised how many in this Chamber and in the Senate don't see the importance of this rescue package.

Madam Speaker, as I said earlier, a flock of vultures flew over New York City. Imagine that, the number of dead people, families mourning, people fighting for their lives on ventilators

in hospitals across the city, families quarantined, businesses shut down. Some of them will not be able to open again. Some of them are struggling to open right this very moment.

Imagine the heroes, nurses and doctors and police officers and firefighters, community-based physicians, who were out there supporting our community, putting their lives on the line—including Ramon Anibal Ramos, who put his life on the line to help New Yorkers.

Yet, many in this Chamber across the aisle and in the Senate don't see the importance of passing this \$1.9 trillion package, which provides \$75 billion for increased vaccination. As we see a new variant—by the way, it has been determined by researchers that only one out of the four antibodies available work against this new variant.

In fact, we are not over this pandemic, and we must bring additional dollars for vaccination. We must bring additional help for small businesses: the EIDL Forgiveness Act, additional PPP money, \$25 billion for restaurants that have been hurt; \$1,400 for families, for individuals, including those children and young people who are in school and college, and dependent parents who may be living with us.

Madam Speaker, the other side of the aisle and some of our Senators fought against the \$400 unemployment benefits. They fought over a mere \$100. What is \$100 in today's cost of living? What can you buy with \$100? Yet, they scabbled and fought over \$100 of unemployment benefits. Incredible.

Madam Speaker, this is an important package that will not only save America; it will put us on the right track to recuperate from this horrendous pandemic, which may be the crisis of our generation. We are here to support that package, to open up the schools safer. Let's bring health to the American family.

HONORING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF WILLIAM QUARLES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Virginia (Ms. SPANBERGER) for 5 minutes.

Ms. SPANBERGER. Madam Speaker, I stand here to honor the life and memory of William Edward Quarles, Jr.

Mr. Quarles was a pillar of the Goochland County, Virginia, community, and he constantly worked to make Goochland stronger. He encouraged his neighbors to get involved in local decisionmaking, and he cared about improving public safety and protecting the families that called Goochland home.

William was a dedicated leader with a heart for public service. He served on the Goochland County Board of Supervisors for 8 years, serving as chairman three times. He served for 6 years on the Goochland Planning Commission, including two times as chairman. He also served on the State EMS Advisory Board and as a representative for the

Virginia Association of Counties. In these roles, he was skilled at finding consensus and preventing divisiveness.

William was also a fierce champion of public education. Throughout his life, he fought to make sure that every child in the Goochland area could access quality education and new opportunities. He was a cofounder of the Goochland Education Foundation, and he was serving on the Goochland County School Board at the time of his death.

William took on each day's new challenges with an unforgettable vigor, a bright smile, and a contagious laugh and enthusiasm. He always remained positive. His enthusiasm was contagious.

People talked about how you couldn't talk to William without him pulling you into some sort of volunteerism, some level of civic engagement, some plan that he was working on. He helped people become their better selves, their more engaged selves, their more community-focused selves.

Madam Speaker, last month, William passed away at the age of 68. He left a community mourning. A bright spot, a bright man, and a man who would bring such kindness to every endeavor, William liked to use a simple acronym, one that his father-in-law had also used. The acronym is SMILE:

S—Seek to understand before being understood;

M—Make the other person feel important;

I—It is not about me;

L—Listen twice as much as you speak;

E—Enthusiastically and quickly admit it when you are wrong.

Madam Speaker, when I began running for Congress, William gave me these lessons, this acronym SMILE. He said: "Remember this. This is how you best serve people."

As our Commonwealth and our Nation face new challenges, we would do well to follow William's advice as we seek solutions and work to come together.

Madam Speaker, today, my thoughts are with his wife, Ruth; his sons, William and Christopher; his friends and family; and the greater Goochland community. William was a friend to everyone, and he considered everyone a friend.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 41 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. RYAN) at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Gracious God, we pray You draw near, and remind us once again how good it is to be close to You.

Come alongside our lawmakers today that their walk would fall in step with Your own purpose.

Provide them encouragement when their work and their desire for progress seems frustrated and hopeless.

Guide them with Your counsel when they find themselves inclined to lead on impulse.

And grant them confidence in Your grace plan when they are confounded with uncertainty and hesitation.

Show them the importance of patience when they face intransigence and narrow-mindedness among their colleagues.

And when, on this journey, our hearts become embittered, show us how to love as You have loved us.

Sovereign God, despite our best efforts, we may fail today. But You are the strength of our hearts and our reward forever. In this promise and in Your presence, sustain us in the living of these days.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 5(a)(1)(A) of House Resolution 8, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

INEQUALITY IS AT HISTORIC HIGHS

(Mr. CICILLINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the PRO Act. Union membership is at historic lows while inequality is at historic highs. The tremendous income inequality in our country is due, in large part, to antiunion policies that have stripped workers of the freedom to negotiate collectively for higher wages, better benefits, and safer working conditions.

Strong unions are essential to rebuilding the middle class and improving the lives of millions of Americans.

The PRO Act ensures workers have the freedom to decide for themselves, without retaliation, whether to form a union. It strengthens safeguards to ensure workers can hold free and fair union elections and it imposes penalties on companies and executives that violate workers' collective bargaining rights.

Passing the PRO Act will not only strengthen Rhode Island's workers' ability to join a union, it will help rebuild the middle class and create an economy where everyone can succeed.

I urge all my colleagues to support the PRO Act.

RECOGNIZING PARRY MCCLUER HIGH SCHOOL BOYS INDOOR TRACK AND FIELD TEAM

(Mr. CLINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Parry McCluer High School boys indoor track and field team for once again winning the Virginia Class 1 State championship last week.

This victory marks back-to-back State titles for this incredibly talented squad led by Coach Poluikis.

After the Fighting Blues graduated a number of their starters last year, Poluikis wasn't sure if his team could go the distance.

With only five Blues competing at the State tournament he said: "I knew we could win, but everything had to go perfect." And everything did go perfectly.

Trevor Tomlin swept the 1600 and 3200. Brenden Plogger won the 1000, and Zavery Wallace took the shot put.

Kedryn Chandler contributed points with a second-place finish in the 3200 and a third-place finish in the 1600, while Omar Massenberg added points in the shot put.

When all was said and done, Parry McCluer had come out with a two-point lead over runners-up Altavista.

This win was made all the more impressive by the fact that all of the team's 58 points were scored in just four events.

Congratulations to this Fighting Blues team on a remarkable season. You have earned it.

WHEN UNIONS ARE STRONG AMERICA IS STRONG

(Mr. HORSFORD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Protecting the Right to Organize Act.

For more than a decade, I helped lead the Culinary Training Academy of Las Vegas, the largest job training program